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SMALLBURGH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

For the Year 1944.

SECTION A.

Area of District in acres.....70,017
Population (1931 Census).....15,690
Population (1944, estimated).....15,440
Structurally separate dwellings (1931 Census)
Occupied..... 4,376
Unoccupied... 433
Rateable Value. £59375
Estimated Penny Rate. £250

		Total.	M.	F.
LIVE BIRTHS.	(Legitimate	237	117	120
	(Illegitimate	23	17	6
		260	134	126

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population - 16.73

		Total.	M.	F.
STILL BIRTHS.	(Legitimate	8	3	5
	(Illegitimate	2	2	-
		10	5	5

Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total births - 37.03

DEATHS	189	96	93

Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population - 12.24

Deaths from PUERPERAL SEPSIS - Nil.
Deaths from other maternal causes - Nil.
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age

Legitimate	7	4	3
Illegitimate	3	2	1
Total	10	6	4

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age:-
All Infants per 1.000 Live Births 38.46
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births 29.53

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)..... 38
Deaths from Measles (all ages)..... -
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)..... 1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)..... -

Birth-rates, Civilian Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case rates for certain Infectious diseases in the Year 1944. Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns.

	England & Wales.	126 C.Bs and Great Towns including London.	148 Smaller Towns Resident Pop. 25,000 - 50,000 at 1931 Census.	London Adm County.
¥ Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population:-				
Live Births	17.6 ≠	20.3	20.9	15.0
Still "	0.50 ≠	0.64	0.61	0.42
Deaths:-				
All Causes	11.6 ≠	13.7	12.4	15.7
Typhoid and Paratyphoid.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough.	0.03	0.03	0.02	0.04
Diphtheria.	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.01
Influenza.	0.12	0.10	0.11	0.08
Smallpox.	0.00	-	-	-
Measles.	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00
Rates per 1,000 Live Births:-				
Deaths under 1 Year of Age.	46 ≠	52	44	61
Deaths from Diarrhoea & Enteritis, under 2 years of age.	4.8	7.3	4.4	10.1

¥ A dash (-) signifies that there were no deaths
≠ Per 1,000 related births
≠ Rates per 1,000 Total population

Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population:-				
Notifications:-				
Typhoid fever.	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Paratyphoid.	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01
Cerebro Spinal Fever	0.05	0.06	0.04	0.06
Scarlet Fever.	2.40	2.41	2.67	1.57
Whooping Cough.	2.49	2.49	2.29	2.90
Diphtheria.	0.58	0.67	0.69	0.31
Erysipelas.	0.29	0.32	0.28	0.37
Smallpox.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles.	4.16	4.51	3.94	2.98
Pneumonia.	0.97	1.13	0.82	0.93
Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still):-				
(a) Notifications:-				
Puerperal Fever / Puerperal Pyrexia	10.34	13.13	9.25	3.61 / ≠ 14.14

(b) Maternal Mortality - England and Wales:-

No.140 Abortion with Sepsis.	No. 141 Abortion without Sepsis.	No. 147 Puerperal Infections.	Nos. 142-6 148-150 Other
0.31	0.09	0.28	1.25

Abortion: Mortality per million women aged 15-45 England & Wales:-

No.140 With Sepsis.	No. 141 Without Sepsis.
25	7

≠ Including Puerperal fever.

Birth-rates, Divisional Death-rates, Mortality of Morbidity, Maternal Mortality and Death rates for Infants Illegitimate in the Year 1944. Territorial Figures based on Mobility and Geriatric Returns.

Causes & Ages.	Ills 0.5% and Under 1 Year.	1&U Under 5 Years.	Medium Age Group.
		5,000 - 50,000 in 1951 Census.	

A Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population:-			
Live births	37.5 ½	[illegible]	16.0
Still "	0.36 ½	0.44	1.85	0.46
Death Rate:-			
All Causes	11.7 ½	12.7	12.5	12.7
Typhoid and Paratyphoid.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Diphtheria.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Influenza.	0.30	0.15	0.11	0.00
Measles.	0.00	-	-	-
Meningitis.	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.00

Rates per 1,000 Live Births:-

Deaths under 1 Year of Age.	48 ½	46	44	41
Deaths from Diarrhoea & Enteritis under 2 Years of Age.	4.5	7.5	4.4	10.1

B Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population:-

Puerperal Fever.	0.00	0.07	0.01	0.01
Diphtheria.	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00
Cerebro Spinal Fever	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.00
Enteric Fever.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.07
Whooping Cough.	0.11	0.13	0.00	0.00
Influenza.	0.46	0.41	0.00	0.00
Diphtheria.	0.16	0.87	0.09	0.01
Measles.	0.09	0.76	0.08	0.07
Dysentery.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis.	0.16	0.01	0.04	0.04
Pneumonia.	0.07	0.13	0.04	0.04

Rates per 1,000 Total Births (Live and Still):-

(a) Maternal Mortality:-				
Puerperal Fever	10.24	16.13	2.42	7.01
Puerperal Pyrexia				14.14

(b) Infantile Mortality - Rates per 1,000 Births:-

No. 100 Adoption with Adopts.	No. 143 Adoption without Adopts.	No. 143 Previous Illegitimate.	Over 100-150 Over 150
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Average: Fertility per million women aged 15-45 Married & Widow:-

0.140 with Adopts.		No. 143 without Adopts.	

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* Individual Prepared Fever.

SECTION B.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE DISTRICT.
D.G. SHIELDS, M.B.E., M.A., M.B., B.Ch., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Medical Officer of Health.

A.L. Taunton, C.R.S.I., Sanitary Inspector.

LABORATORY FACILITIES. Norfolk County Laboratory (now replaced by E.P.H. Laboratory, Norwich).

AMBULANCE SERVICES are obtained from the British Red Cross Society at Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, North Walsham, Martham and Great Yarmouth Hospital.

NURSING IN THE HOME.
(a) District Nurses of Norfolk Nursing Federation.
(b) Private hire in infectious diseases.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES. None in District.

HOSPITALS. Norfolk and Norwich, Jenny Lind (Children), Great Yarmouth and North Walsham Cottage Hospitals all take cases from the area. Infectious cases for which isolation is considered necessary are admitted to the County Isolation Hospital at Dereham. The Coltishall Nursing Home unfortunately remains closed owing to staffing difficulties.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.	Total.	Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Typhoid Fever.	-	-	-
Paratyphoid.	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever.	22	9	-
Whooping Cough.	7	1	1
Diphtheria.	1	1	-
Erysipelas.	5	-	-
Smallpox.	-	-	-
Measles.	330	2	-
Pneumonia.	21	-	6
Puerperal Pyrexia.	2	1	-
Jaundice.	12	1	-
Malaria.	3	2	-
C.S. Meningitis.	1	1	-
	404	18	7

The increase in the incidence of notifiable infectious diseases, noted in my last Report, has continued to develop, the total figures for the past three years being respectively - 1942 - 62, 1943 - 279, 1944 - 404; in the last pre-war year (1939) the figure was 44. The figures are swollen by the heavy incidence of measles, which in 1944 in this District was more than five times greater than the incidence for England and Wales as a whole. Nevertheless it cannot escape notice that the general increase in infectious disease goes hand in hand with the deplorably congested state of public transport vehicles. Conditions in East Norfolk in this respect have been so notoriously bad that attention was called to them in Parliament, but no amelioration seems yet to have taken place; it is little exaggeration to say that in 1944 human beings were subjected to degrees of unhealthy congestion which, had they been inflicted upon animals, would have led to the prosecution of those responsible. It is small wonder that in such circumstances infectious disease has been exceptionally rife.

PART I B.

PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

J.D. Whelan, M.C.E., M.I., M.C., B.C., B.A., B.S., I.A.D.T.,
National Officer of Health.

A.E. Thomson, O.B.E.,I., Sanitary Inspector.

LABORATORY FACILITIES. Dorset County Laboratory (now replaced by F.P.H. Laboratory, Bournemouth).

AMBULANCE SERVICES are obtained from the British Red Cross Society at Bournemouth and Poole Hospital, Poole Walkers, Parties and Great Ferrous Hospital.

DEALING IN THE ROAD.
(a) Prevent Burges of Bournemouth Building Regulation.
(b) Private Bill in Parliament Clauses.

CLINICS AND THERAPEUTIC CENTRES. None in district.

HOSPITALS. Bournemouth and Boscombe, Poole Hospital (Cumberland), Great Ferrous and North Wilkes County Hospitals all have cases from the area. Infectious cases are which isolation is considered necessary are admitted to the County Isolation Hospital at Parkstone. The Bournemouth Burning Bank authorities receive cases owing to overflow difficulties.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.	Total.	Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Typhoid Fever.	-	-	-
Paratyphoid.	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever.	22	2	-
Diphtheria.	7	1	-
Erysipelas.	-	-	-
Smallpox.	-	-	-
Measles.	320	-	-
Pneumonia.	1	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.	2	1	-
Cerebro.	1	1	-
Malaria.	2	-	-
T.B. Meningitis.	1	1	-
	357	16	-

The increase in the incidence of notifiable infectious diseases, noted in my last Report, has continued to develop, the total figures for the past three years being respectively - 1943 - 22, 1944 - 177, 1945 - 357; in the last pre-war year (1939) the figure was 44. The figures are swollen by the heavy incidence of measles, which in 1944 in this District was more than five times greater than the incidence for England and Wales as a whole. Investigation of causes suggests that the general increase in infectious diseases goes hand in hand with the deplorably congested state of public transport facilities. Conditions in East Dorset in this respect have been so notoriously bad that public opinion was called to bear in Parliament, but no amelioration seems yet to have taken place; it is hardly exaggeration to say that in Isle Human beings were employed in degrees of unhealthy congestion which, had they been inflicted upon animals, would have led to the prosecution of some responsible. It is really wonder that in such circumstances infectious diseases are not consequentially rife.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

During 1944, 187 more children were immunised against diphtheria under the Council's scheme; 158 of these were children under the age of five years. In all, 2,528 children have now been immunised out of of an estimated child-population of 3,389. It is quite probable that a number of children now residing in the District have received immunisation through other channels than the Council's free scheme, so that the position is possibly more satisfactory than suggested by the statistics available. Only one case of diphtheria occurred in the District during 1944, this being an adult (Service) case.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases during 1944.

	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Totals.
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	
Aged under 1	-	-	-	-	-
" 1 - 5	-	-	-	-	-
" 5 - 15	-	-	2	-	2
" 15 - 25	4	5	-	1	10
" 25 - 35	3	2	-	-	5
" 35 - 45	1	1	-	-	2
" 45 - 55	3	-	-	2	5
" 55 - 65	1	1	-	-	2
" over 65	-	-	-	-	-
Totals:-	12	9	2	3	26

Deaths during 1944.

	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Totals.
	Males.	Females.	Males.	Females.	
Aged under 1	-	-	-	-	-
" 1 - 5	-	-	-	-	-
" 5 - 15	-	1	-	-	1
" 15 - 25	-	-	-	-	-
" 25 - 35	-	-	-	-	-
" 35 - 45	-	1	1	-	2
" 45 - 55	1	-	-	-	1
" 55 - 65	-	1	-	-	1
" over 65	-	-	-	-	-
Totals:-	1	3	1	-	5

GENERAL.

WATER SUPPLIES.

(1) Generally speaking the water supply over the whole District has been satisfactory both in quality and quantity. The military authorities however, have been averse to taking their supplies from existing shallow wells, and have obtained supplies from public mains at Hoveton and Stalham.

(2) At Hoveton the supply is from the City of Norwich Waterworks, and samples are submitted direct to the public analyst. A recent report states - "This supply is not at its best in respect of organic quality and colour. The quality is within the normal limits of variation in the winter months. The water is suitable for drinking purposes".
At Stalham where the Council has a mains supply, one sample of the raw water and two samples of the water going into supply (after chlorination) were taken, and the public analyst reports "This water is of great organic purity, free from the slightest sign of pollution, and of unimpeachable quality for drinking purposes. The sample is free from suspended iron, and that in solution is negligible".

(3) No reports have been received of contamination by lead.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNIZATION.

During 1944, 197 more children were immunized against diphtheria under the Council's scheme; 186 of these were children under the age of five years. In all, 5,[illegible] children are now fully immunized out of an estimated child-population of 8,[illegible]. It is quite probable that a number of children now residing in the District have received immunization through other channels than the Council's free scheme, so that the position is possibly more satisfactory than suggested by the statistics available. Only one case of diphtheria occurred in the District during 1944, this being an adult (service) case.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases during 1944.

Age under 1	Respiratory. Males.	Respiratory. Females.	Non-Respiratory. Males.	Non-Respiratory. Females.	Totals.
" 1 - 5	-	-	-	-	-
" 5 - 15	-	-	-	-	-
" 15 - 25	-	-	-	-	-
" 25 - 35	4	3	-	1	10
" 35 - 45	3	2	-	-	5
" 45 - 55	1	1	-	-	2
" 55 - 65	3	-	-	2	5
" 65 - 75	1	1	-	-	2
" 75 - 85	-	-	-	-	-
" over 85	-	-	-	-	-
Totals:-	11	9	0	3	23

Deaths during 1944.

Age under 1	Respiratory. Males.	Respiratory. Females.	Non-Respiratory. Males.	Non-Respiratory. Females.	Totals.
" 1 - 5	-	-	-	-	-
" 5 - 15	-	-	-	-	-
" 15 - 25	-	1	-	-	1
" 25 - 35	-	-	-	-	-
" 35 - 45	-	-	-	-	-
" 45 - 55	-	1	1	-	2
" 55 - 65	1	-	-	-	1
" 65 - 75	-	1	-	-	1
" 75 - 85	-	-	-	-	-
" over 85	-	-	-	-	-
Totals:-	1	3	1	-	5

[illegible].

[illegible] supplies.

(1) Generally speaking the water supply over an whole District has been satisfactory both in quality and quantity. The military authorities however, have been forced to taking their supplies from existing public wells, and have obtained supplies from public mains at Darlton and Ellaby.

(2) At Everton the supply is from the City of Norwich Waterworks, and samples are submitted direct to the public analyst. A recent report states - "This supply is not as pure as is desirable in respect of organic quality and colour. The quality is within the normal limits of variation in the water works. The water is suitable for drinking purposes".
At Ingham where the Council has a mains supply, one sample of the raw water and two samples of the water after being supply (after chlorination) were taken, and the public analyst reports "This water is of fair organic purity, free from mineral pollution, and of unsatisfactory quality for drinking purposes. The sample is free from [illegible] iron, and that in solution is negligible".

(3) No [illegible] have been [illegible] of contamination by lead.

(4) 10 samples were taken from shallow well supplies during the year, and the public analyst reported that eight samples were good and two were impure. In the latter cases the wells were closed for domestic purposes.

(5) Particulars of the number of dwellinghouses, and the proportion of the population, having a supply of water from public mains:-

Parish of HOVETON:

Number of houses having direct supply into house	-	24
Estimated number of persons supplied	-	83
Number of houses supplied by stand-pipes	-	nil
Estimated number of persons supplied	-	-
Proportion of houses having a mains supply	-	5.4%
" " population " " "	-	8.4%

Parish of STALHAM:

Number of houses having direct supply into house	-	154
Estimated number of persons supplied	-	471
Number of houses supplied by stand-pipes	-	17
Estimated number of persons supplied	-	62
Proportion of houses having a mains supply	-	47.3%
" " population " " "	-	55.2%

NUISANCES.

43 alleged nuisances were investigated during the year, and in one case only was it found necessary to serve a statutory notice, this being a nuisance on the site of war-damaged property at Happisburgh. This nuisance was finally abated.

HOUSING.

Demolitions: (1) Order in respect of a cottage at Ludham occupied by Thrower. In this case Thrower was granted a vacant Council house, and the demolition order is in force.

(2) Order served in respect of two vacant cottages at Wayford Bridge, Smallburgh. Here the owner gave an undertaking to repair, which was accepted by the Council, and the necessary work is in progress.

Notice to Repair under Section 9, Housing Act 1936, served in respect of two cottages at Neatishead. In this case the owner decided to dispose of the property, and the new owner carried out the necessary work.

Dwellinghouses damaged by enemy action during the war.

Number of dwellinghouses destroyed by enemy action	-	3
Other dwellinghouses demolished consequent upon enemy damage	-	4
Number of dwellinghouses damaged by enemy action	-	883
" " Council houses " " " "		55
" " dwellinghouses given 'First Aid' repairs by the Council.	-	338

(4) 10 samples were taken from shallow well supplies during the year, and the public analyst reported that eight samples were good and two were impure. In the latter samples cod weils were closed for domestic purposes.

(5) Particulars of the number of dwellinghouses, and the proportion of the population, having a supply of water from public mains:-

Parishes of Ryton:

Number of houses having direct supply into house	-	84
Estimated number of persons supplied	-	89
Number of houses supplied by stand-pipes	-	nil
Estimated number of persons supplied	-	-
Proportion of houses having a main supply	-	0.0%
" " population " " "	-	0.0%

Parish of Whickham:

Number of houses having direct supply into house	-	124
Estimated number of persons supplied	-	471
Number of houses supplied by stand-pipes	-	17
Estimated number of persons supplied	-	64
Proportion of houses having a main supply	-	87.3%
" " population " " "	-	85.3%

Nuisances.

A nuisance was investigated during the year, and in one case only was it found necessary to serve a statutory notice, this being a nuisance on the site of war-damaged property at Rippleworth. This nuisance was finally abated.

Housing.

Demolitions: (1) Order in respect of a cottage at Lumley occupied by owner. In this case Tribunal was granted a vacant Council house, and the demolition order is in force.

(2) Order served in respect of two vacant cottages at Mayford Bridge, Whickham. Here the owner gave an undertaking to repair, which was accepted by the Council, and the necessary work is in progress.

Notice to Repair under Section 9, Housing Act 1925, served in respect of two cottages at Lintzford. In this case the owner decided to dispose of the property, and the new owner carried out the necessary work.

Dwellinghouses Damaged by enemy action during the year.

Number of dwellinghouses destroyed by enemy action	-	3
Other dwellinghouses demolished consequent upon enemy damage	-	4
Number of dwellinghouses damaged by enemy action.	-	285
" " Council houses " " " "		15
" " dwellinghouses given 'First Aid' repairs by the Council.	-	255

Overcrowding.

One serious case is outstanding:-

The Hill, Swanton Abbott. This is a small two-bedroomed bungalow, occupied by R. Critoph, his wife and seven young children. In addition, Mrs Critoph has had triplets, and these are in a home provided by the Norfolk County Council, as the existing accommodation is so inadequate. Mr. Critoph is a milkman, employed at Sloley Hall Farm.

General Housing Conditions.

The housing situation can only be described as acute, and additional dwellings are urgently needed in all parts of the District. It is, however, noticeable that many existing three-bedroomed dwellings are occupied by only two or three persons, and a rough census of the dwellings owned by the Council showed the following position :-

0.6 persons per occupied room.

The Council now owns 685 dwellings, as under :-

1919 (Assisted Scheme)	48
1923 Acts	6
1924 Act	412
1931 (Rural Authorities) Act.	28
Slum Clearance.	58
1936 Act (Overcrowding)	34
1938 Act (Overcrowding & Slum Clearance) ...	3
(Accommodation of Members of Agrl.Popln.)	19
Not subsidised.	77
Total ...	685

The average RENT charged is 4/- per week plus rates.

The average RATES charged are 1/1½d. per week.

D. G. SHIELDS.

Medical Officer of Health.

A. L. TAUNTON.

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

To the Chairman and Members of
the Smallburgh Rural District Council.

August 1945.

Overcrowding.

One serious case is outstanding:-

The Hill, Beaston Abbott. This is a small two-bedroomed bungalow, occupied by R. Gritton, his wife and seven young children. In addition, Mrs Gritton has had relatives, and these are in a home provided by the Norfolk County Council, as the existing accommodation is so inadequate. Mr. Gritton is a milkman, employed at Bloley Hall Farm.

General Housing Conditions.

The housing situation can only be described as acute, and additional dwellings are urgently needed in all parts of the District. It is, however, noticeable that many existing three-bedroomed dwellings are occupied by only two or three persons, and a young census of the dwellings owned by the Council showed the following position :-

0.6 persons per occupied room.

The Council has some sub dwellings, as under :-

1919 (Assisted Houses)	6
1920 Acts	8
1924 Act	112
1931 (Rural Authorities) Act.	39
Slum Clearance.	59
1936 Act (Overcrowding)	44
1938 Act (Overcrowding & Slum Clearance) ...	3
(Accommodation of society of Agri.Prodn.)	13
Not specified.	77
Total ...	365

The average RENT charged is 4/- per week plus rates.

The average RATES charged are 1/11d. per week.

D. G. BRIGGS.

Medical Officer of Health.

A. E. TAYLOR.

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

To the Chairman and Members of
the Walderton Rural District Council.

August 1947.